

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

SHARON CHASE, as Administratrix of the
Estate of NICOLE CARMEN,

Plaintiff,

vs.

CORRECTIONAL MEDICAL CARE, INC.,
EMRE UMAR, JANE DOE NUMBER ONE, the
screening nurse for decedent, Nicole Carmen,
employed by Correctional Medical Care, Inc.,
whose identity cannot presently be determined,
JANE DOE NUMBER TWO, Head Nurse at the
Schenectady County Jail, employed by
Correctional Medical Care, Inc., whose identity
cannot presently be determined, JOHN/JANE
DOES 3-5, employees of Correctional Medical
Care, Inc., whose identities cannot presently be
determined, COUNTY OF SCHENECTADY,
DOMINIC A. D'AGOSTINO, JIM BARRETT
and JOHN/JANE DOES 6-10, employees of the
Schenectady County Sheriff's Department whose
identities cannot presently be determined.

Defendants.

DEFENDANTS', CORRECTIONAL
MEDICAL CARE AND EMRE
UMAR'S, ANSWER

Civil Action No.: 1:14-CV-0474
(DNH/TWD)

Defendants, CORRECTIONAL MEDICAL CARE, INC. and EMRE UMAR, by
and through their attorneys, Smith, Sovik, Kendrick & Sugnet, P.C., hereby answer plaintiff's
Complaint as follows:

1. Paragraph "1" of plaintiff's Complaint contains plaintiff's characterizations of her
claims. No response is required. To the extent a response is required, defendants **ADMIT** that
plaintiff purports to seek damages for alleged violations of her rights.

2. **DENY KNOWLEDGE OR INFORMATION** sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained in paragraph "2" of plaintiff's Complaint.

3. **DENY KNOWLEDGE OR INFORMATION** sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained in paragraph "3" of plaintiff's Complaint.

4. **ADMIT** the allegations contained in paragraph "4" of plaintiff's Complaint.

5. **DENY KNOWLEDGE OR INFORMATION** sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained in paragraph "5" of plaintiff's Complaint.

6. **ADMIT** the allegations contained in paragraph "6" of plaintiff's Complaint.

7. **ADMIT** the allegations contained in paragraph "7" of plaintiff's Complaint.

8. **DENY KNOWLEDGE OR INFORMATION** sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained in paragraph "8" of plaintiff's Complaint.

9. **DENY KNOWLEDGE OR INFORMATION** sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained in paragraph "9" of plaintiff's Complaint.

10. **DENY KNOWLEDGE OR INFORMATION** sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained in paragraph "10" of plaintiff's Complaint.

11. **DENY KNOWLEDGE OR INFORMATION** sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained in paragraph "11" of plaintiff's Complaint.

12. **DENY KNOWLEDGE OR INFORMATION** sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained in paragraph "12" of plaintiff's Complaint.

13. **DENY KNOWLEDGE OR INFORMATION** sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained in paragraph "13" of plaintiff's Complaint.

14. **DENY KNOWLEDGE OR INFORMATION** sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained in paragraph "14" of plaintiff's Complaint.

15. In response to the allegations contained in paragraph "15" of plaintiff's Complaint, defendants **ADMIT** that plaintiff was admitted to the Schenectady County Jail in April, 2013, but **DENY KNOWLEDGE OR INFORMATION** sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations concerning the reason for her admission.

16. **ADMIT** the allegations contained in paragraph "16" of plaintiff's Complaint.

17. **DENY** the allegations contained in paragraph "17" of plaintiff's Complaint.

18. In response to the allegations contained in paragraph "18" of plaintiff's Complaint, defendants **ADMIT** that protocols were in place at the time for inmates reporting recent drug use. Defendants **DENY** that said protocols required 1:1 supervision. Defendants **DENY KNOWLEDGE OR INFORMATION** sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations pertaining to the obligations of corrections officers.

19. In response to the allegations contained in paragraph "19" of plaintiff's Complaint, defendants **DENY** that said protocols require medical assessments of inmates three times a day. Defendants **ADMIT** that certain medications are made available to inmates to help alleviate withdrawal symptoms. Defendants **DENY KNOWLEDGE OR INFORMATION** sufficient to form a belief as to the remainder of plaintiff's allegations in paragraph "19" of plaintiff's Complaint.

20. **DENY** the allegations contained in paragraph "20" of plaintiff's Complaint.

21. In response to the allegations contained in paragraph "21" of plaintiff's Complaint, defendants **DENY** that plaintiff's condition "drastically worsened." Defendants

DENY KNOWLEDGE OR INFORMATION sufficient to form a belief as to the remainder of plaintiff's allegations in paragraph "21" of plaintiff's Complaint.

22. In response to the allegations contained in paragraph "22" of plaintiff's Complaint, defendants **DENY** the allegations insofar as they pertain to the answering defendants. Defendants **DENY KNOWLEDGE OR INFORMATION** sufficient to form a belief as to the remainder of plaintiff's allegations in paragraph "22" of plaintiff's Complaint.

23. In response to the allegations contained in paragraph "23" of plaintiff's Complaint, defendants **DENY** the allegations insofar as they pertain to the answering defendants. Defendants **DENY KNOWLEDGE OR INFORMATION** sufficient to form a belief as to the remainder of plaintiff's allegations in paragraph "23" of plaintiff's Complaint.

24. In response to the allegations contained in paragraph "24" of plaintiff's Complaint, defendants **DENY** the allegations insofar as they pertain to the answering defendants. Defendants **DENY KNOWLEDGE OR INFORMATION** sufficient to form a belief as to the remainder of plaintiff's allegations in paragraph "24" of plaintiff's Complaint.

25. In response to the allegations contained in paragraph "25" of plaintiff's Complaint, defendants **DENY** the allegations insofar as they pertain to the answering defendants. Defendants **DENY KNOWLEDGE OR INFORMATION** sufficient to form a belief as to the remainder of plaintiff's allegations in paragraph "25" of plaintiff's Complaint.

26. In response to the allegations contained in paragraph "26" of plaintiff's Complaint, defendants **DENY** the allegations insofar as they pertain to the answering defendants. Defendants **DENY KNOWLEDGE OR INFORMATION** sufficient to form a belief as to the remainder of plaintiff's allegations in paragraph "26" of plaintiff's Complaint.

27. In response to the allegations contained in paragraph "27" of plaintiff's Complaint, defendants **DENY** the allegations insofar as they pertain to the answering defendants. Defendants **DENY KNOWLEDGE OR INFORMATION** sufficient to form a belief as to the remainder of plaintiff's allegations in paragraph "27" of plaintiff's Complaint.

28. **DENY** the allegations contained in paragraph "28" of plaintiff's Complaint.

29. In response to the allegations contained in paragraph "29" of plaintiff's Complaint, defendants **ADMIT** that decedent was transferred out of the facility and ultimately expired. Defendants **DENY KNOWLEDGE OR INFORMATION** sufficient to form a belief as to the remainder of plaintiff's allegations in paragraph "29" of plaintiff's Complaint.

30. **DENY KNOWLEDGE OR INFORMATION** sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained in paragraph "30" of plaintiff's Complaint.

31. In response to the allegations contained in paragraph "31" of plaintiff's Complaint, defendants **DENY** that defendants have any such policies as alleged by plaintiff. The remaining allegations are palpably improper and irrelevant and have no basis for inclusion in plaintiff's Complaint. No response is required.

32. The allegations contained in paragraph "32" of plaintiff's Complaint allegations are palpably improper and irrelevant and have no basis for inclusion in plaintiff's Complaint. No response is required. To the extent plaintiff infers defendants were negligent in this case, defendants **DENY** such allegation or inference.

33. The allegations contained in paragraph "33" of plaintiff's Complaint allegations are palpably improper and irrelevant and have no basis for inclusion in plaintiff's Complaint. No

response is required. To the extent plaintiff infers defendants were negligent in this case, defendants **DENY** such allegation or inference.

34. **DENY** the allegations contained in paragraph "34" of plaintiff's Complaint.

35. **DENY** the allegations contained in paragraph "35" of plaintiff's Complaint.

36. The allegations contained in paragraph "36" of plaintiff's Complaint allegations are palpably improper and irrelevant and have no basis for inclusion in plaintiff's Complaint. No response is required. To the extent plaintiff infers defendants were negligent in this case, defendants **DENY** such allegation or inference.

37. **DENY** the allegations contained in paragraph "37" of plaintiff's Complaint.

38. **DENY** the allegations contained in paragraph "38" of plaintiff's Complaint.

39. **REPEAT and REALLEGE** the admissions and denials as set forth hereinabove contained in paragraphs "1" through "38" of plaintiff's Complaint.

40. The allegations contained in paragraph "40" of plaintiff's Complaint contain plaintiff's interpretation of constitutional law. No response is required.

41. In response to the allegations contained in paragraph "41" of plaintiff's Complaint, defendants **DENY** the allegations insofar as they pertain to the answering defendants.

42. In response to the allegations contained in paragraph "42" of plaintiff's Complaint, defendants **DENY** the allegations insofar as they pertain to the answering defendants.

43. **DENY** the allegations contained in paragraph "43" of plaintiff's Complaint.

44. In response to the allegations contained in paragraph "44" of plaintiff's Complaint, defendants **DENY** the allegations insofar as they pertain to the answering defendants.

45. **REPEAT and REALLEGE** the admissions and denials as set forth hereinabove contained in paragraphs "1" through "44" of plaintiff's Complaint.

46. In response to the allegations contained in paragraph "46" of plaintiff's Complaint, defendants **DENY** the allegations insofar as they pertain to the answering defendants.

47. In response to the allegations contained in paragraph "47" of plaintiff's Complaint, defendants **DENY** the allegations insofar as they pertain to the answering defendants.

48. **DENY** the allegations contained in paragraph "48" of plaintiff's Complaint.

49. The allegations contained in paragraph "49" of plaintiff's Complaint contain conclusions of law. No response is required. Defendants respectfully refer all questions of law to the Court. To the extent plaintiff alleges defendants violated the decedent's civil rights, defendants **DENY** such allegation.

50. **DENY** the allegations contained in paragraph "50" of plaintiff's Complaint.

51. **DENY** the allegations contained in paragraph "51" of plaintiff's Complaint.

52. **DENY** the allegations contained in paragraph "52" of plaintiff's Complaint.

53. **DENY** the allegations contained in paragraph "53" of plaintiff's Complaint.

54. **REPEAT and REALLEGE** the admissions and denials as set forth hereinabove contained in paragraphs "1" through "53" of plaintiff's Complaint.

55. In response to the allegations contained in paragraph "55" of plaintiff's Complaint, defendants **DENY** the allegations insofar as they pertain to the answering defendants.

56. **DENY** the allegations contained in paragraph "56" of plaintiff's Complaint.

57. In response to the allegations contained in paragraph "57" of plaintiff's Complaint, defendants **DENY** the allegations insofar as they pertain to the answering defendants.

- 58. **DENY** the allegations contained in paragraph "58" of plaintiff's Complaint.
- 59. **DENY** the allegations contained in paragraph "59" of plaintiff's Complaint.
- 60. **ADMIT** the allegations contained in paragraph "60" of plaintiff's Complaint.
- 61. **ADMIT** the allegations contained in paragraph "61" of plaintiff's Complaint.

AS AND FOR A FIRST AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

62. That whatever damages may have been sustained at the time and place alleged in the complaint by plaintiff were caused, in whole or in part, by the culpable conduct of the plaintiff and/or decedent and must be reduced proportionally to the culpable conduct of the plaintiff/decedent.

AS AND FOR A SECOND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

63. That the equitable share of liability, if any, of the parties, shall be determined pursuant to the provisions of Articles 14 and 16 of the CPLR.

AS AND FOR A THIRD AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

64. Pursuant to Section 15-108 of the General Obligations Law, in the event this Court finds these defendants liable, in whole or in part, to the plaintiff, and in the event the plaintiff has released or recovered against some other party for any damages resulting from the incident which is the subject of this Complaint, the plaintiff's recovery from the defendants should be diminished in the proportion that the culpable conduct attributed to others bears to the culpable conduct which caused the alleged injuries or damages, or in the amount of the prior settlement or verdict, whichever is greater.

AS AND FOR A FOURTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

65. That one or more causes of action in the complaint fail to state a cause of action upon which relief may be granted.

AS AND FOR A FIFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

66. That plaintiff has not met the conditions precedent to the commencement of this action as required by law.

AS AND FOR A SIXTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

67. Plaintiff has failed to mitigate her alleged damages claimed herein.

AS AND FOR A SEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

68. The amount of alleged damages claimed by plaintiff should be reduced pursuant to CPLR §4545 to the extent of any collateral source benefits, remuneration or compensation received.

AS AND FOR A EIGHTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

69. The decedent sustained the injuries or damages alleged, then said injuries and damages are proximately caused by persons and/or entities not connected with the defendants, and for whom this defendants bear no legal responsibility.

AS AND FOR A NINTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

70. If the decedent sustained the injuries and damages as alleged, then said injuries and damages resulted from the plaintiff's knowing and voluntary assumption of the risk.

AS AND FOR A TENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

71. That the Complaint does not set forth a basis for punitive damages.

AS AND FOR A ELEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

72. That any claims for punitive damages contained in the Complaint fail to state a claim upon which relief may be granted, violate various provisions of the Constitution of the United States and the State of New York, and violate various statutory proscriptions thereof.

AS AND FOR A TWELFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

73. No act or omission of these answering defendants was malicious, willful, wanton, reckless or grossly negligent and, therefore, any award or punitive damages is barred.

AS AND FOR A THIRTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

74. That defendants deny that it is liable in any way to plaintiff under any legal theory because of the doctrine of immunity, whether qualified, sovereign, statutory or otherwise.

AS AND FOR A FOURTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

75. That plaintiff is not entitled to recover damages in this action under 42 U.S.C. §1983.

AS AND FOR A FIFTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

76. That these defendants reserve the right to amend its answer and/or affirmative defenses that may be determined applicable in the future by discovery in this matter.

AS AND FOR AN SIXTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

77. The defendants' actions were taken in good faith and pursuant to constitutional and statutory authority. Accordingly, the defendants have committed no wrongful act of any nature resulting in a violation of plaintiff's federal or state constitutional rights.

AS AND FOR A SEVENTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

78. That no policy, statement, ordinance, regulation or decision officially adopted

and/or formulated by defendants or otherwise ratified by defendants authorized a deprivation of plaintiff's constitutional rights.

AS AND FOR A EIGHTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

79. Answering defendants allege that in treating the plaintiff, the medical providers at the Facility exercised their best medical judgment.

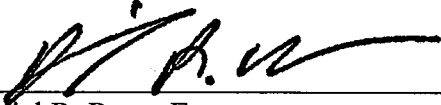
JURY DEMAND

80. Demand is made for a jury trial on all issues.

WHEREFORE, defendants, CORRECTIONAL MEDICAL CARE, INC. and EMRE UMAR, demand judgment dismissing the complaint herein, together with the costs and disbursements of this action.

Dated: July 25, 2014

SMITH, SOVIK, KENDRICK & SUGNET, P.C.



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